GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:430
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
CRITERIA FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of Post offices/Sub-Post offices in the country;

(b) Whether the number of Post offices/Sub-Post offices in Assam is far below the actual requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to open more post offices in the State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Criteria for opening post offices/sub-post offices is enclosed at Annexure.

(b) No. The existing number of post offices in Assam, compares well with the All India figures in terms of area and population served per post office, as given below:

Area	Areas covered per post office	Population served per post office
Assam	19.57 sq.km	6644
India	21.09 sq.km	6602

(c)&(d) Post offices are opened on need based requirement, subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms laid down by the Department and availability of resources. Government continues to give emphasis to improve postal facilities in the N.E. region, including Assam, taking into consideration the special norms for hilly, tribal and remote areas.

ANNEX.

NORMS FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES

1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

1.1 Population

(a) In normal areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal desert and inaccessible areas:
500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas: The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 % of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. NORMS OF OPENING NEW DEPARTMENTAL SUB POST OFFICES:

2.1 In Rural areas:

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas:

2.2.1 In urban areas, the Post office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, if should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two post offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 Lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post office should not be less than 5 Kms. Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen`s beats.